



**Modesto
Hearing Aid
Center**

611 Scenic Drive • Suite A • Modesto, CA 95350 • (209) 577-1014 • Fax (209) 5778046

*"Practicing old
fashioned service
and care while
specializing in the
latest technology"*
— Larry Daffron

October 10, 2000

Honorable Donna Shalala
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 615F
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Shalala,

As a hearing health care provider for over 5 years, I am writing to you with respect to hearing aids. As the AARP has confirmed, hearing aids are highly effective but dramatically underutilized medical devices.

I am very concerned with reports that the Food and Drug Administrations (FDA) has reportedly sent to you a proposal for revising the current regulations governing the dispensing of hearing aids in this country. This bill will dramatically increase the cost of hearing health care services and restrict access to hearing health care providers. Please stop and carefully consider the impact that this proposed rule will have on the nation's hearing impaired and on the nation's small business hearing aid specialist. In particular, please ensure that any proposed rule meets the obligations of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act.

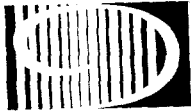
Hearing loss is a major health care concern, especially with the senior population. Please don't let the FDA put forth their proposed rule that would impede access to needed hearing health care service to millions of Americans.

Best regards,

Larry King, HA3557
Board Certified Hearing Instrument Specialist

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